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INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Purchases by Yugoslav and Bulgarian Missions

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- The Yugoslav and Bulgarian Military Missions are acting as buyers of industrial equipment produced in the western part of Germany on behalf of the SMA. Every week the two Missions receive orders from an unidentified SMA agency located in Berlin-Mittelheim, Wendenachloos, and deliveries of goods received are made to that office. It is believed that this procedure has been chosen to avoid possible trade restriction by the Western Powers and because many firms in Bismarck might be unwilling to sell if the SMA were known to be the buyer.
- The main agent of the Yugoslav and Bulgarian Missions, located in the Schoenhauer Allee, is the firm Strunk, Metal Goods, Am Schoenhauer Tor, Berlin. The owner of this firm is Mr. Strunk, who is in possession of a four-tonal passport. In early January, 1948, this firm received a large shipment from Kfz Düsseldorf. It is estimated that Strunk buys weekly industrial material worth 200-250,000 marks, which is taken over immediately by the Yugoslav or Bulgarian Missions. From there the goods are shipped by order of Major-General Ivashin of the SMA. Most of the shipments are handled by Derutrac. Not even the Missions apparently know the final destination of the goods.
- On 30 January 1948, the firm Strunk received:
  - 250 electric motors (average h.p. 250)
  - Accessory equipment for lathes
  - Parts for bearings (Lagerteile)
  - Ball bearings

The total value of this consignment (Mr. Strunk's sales price) amounted to 2,800,000 marks. The Bulgarian representatives wanted to pay 2,800,000 marks of this sum in Allied notes of Russian origin (recognizable by a thin black line at the left of the number); however, Strunk rejected the money, saying it was forged. Two hours later, two Russian officers called on Strunk and paid the sum in notes of German issue.
- On 31 January, five sawing and planing machines of an unknown construction were sold by Strunk to the Yugoslav Mission; the price could not be learned. The machines weigh about one ton each and come from the firm ARMAG (sic, Allgemeine Rheinische Maschinenbau A.G.).
- On 31 January, the firm Strunk also delivered zinc valued at 50,000 marks, which came from the west. Such a delivery is made regularly every week.

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made by the firm Strunk come from the current production of the western zones.

6. Especially active is the purchasing department for optical equipment of the Yugoslav Mission, which is headed by a Yugoslav named Gastrich; Gastrich is assisted by a German engineer named Sommer. This department orders equipment at the Askania Werke, Berlin-Friedenau. Between 19 and 24 January, a considerable number of measuring instruments were delivered; details are not known. On 30 January, 24 Ariflex cameras were delivered to the Yugoslav Mission by the Askania Werke. The value of this order has not yet been determined.
7. The business transactions between the Askania Werke and the Yugoslav Mission are described as repair work. Single parts of about five to seven Ariflex cameras which had become useless were handed over to be delivered towards the end of January. Since 1939, the Ariflex camera was used exclusively by the German Army. The liaison man between the Yugoslav Mission and Askania is a Mr. Markovich.

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